

Global Needlestick Prevention Group Honors 5 recipients with Sharps Injury Prevention Award

By International Sharps Injury Prevention Society

Dated: Dec 02, 2009

ISIPS, the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society, along with Managing Infection Control Magazine, honors 5 recipients with International Sharps Injury Prevention Awards.

It was announced earlier today that five recipients are being honored for reducing sharps injuries with an International Sharps Injury Prevention Award with additional recipients receiving honorable mention awards. These awards are part of the International Sharps Injury Prevention Awareness Month activities being commemorated during December, 2009 starting with World AIDS Day, December 1st.

A number of very worthy individuals were nominated for the ISIPS 2009 International Sharps Injury Prevention Awards. We thank those individuals that have made a difference in getting the message of sharps injury prevention to healthcare workers and employers around the globe. We owe a debt of gratitude to those that have provided a healthier climate for healthcare workers and others.

This prestigious award is given to only a few individuals each year. Five deserving individuals have been notified and have accepted their 2009 International Sharps Injury Prevention Awards. ISIPS and Managing Infection Control magazine congratulate and thank these individuals for making a difference in spreading the message of sharps injury prevention to healthcare workers and employers around the globe. This award is one way of saying thank you for reducing the number of healthcare workers and others who are injured by needlestick and other sharps injuries each year.

The ISIPS 2009 Sharps Injury Prevention Awards have been given to honor five individuals who have demonstrated creative, consistent contributions to the field of needlestick prevention. The ISIPS 2008 International Sharps Injury Prevention Award recipients are:

2009 Award Winners

Presenting this year's distinguished winners:

- Lisa Black
- Lucinda Brown
- Mary Hotaling
- Joseph Howard
- Margaret Lampark

Lisa Black, PhD, RN is an assistant professor at the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno and an active proponent of safe-needle legislation to protect healthcare workers from the potentially devastating effects of needlestick injury. In her quest for safer practices, Ms. Black notes her greatest initial challenge was getting healthcare agencies to see the value in investing in healthcare worker safety. "It's all too easy to look at low numbers of workplace transmission, and assume that the status quo is acceptable," she says. "It took a long time to get the industry on board."

Lucinda Brown

Serving as the Director of Occupational Health Services at Children's Hospital Boston, Lucinda Brown is responsible for the health and safety of more than 13,000 employees. She has initiated programs around safe needle use and championed the development and use of needlestick performance improvement metrics through the institution's safety committee for tracking and trending. "In 2008, we successfully reduced

injuries by 8 percent over the previous year—and by 32 percent over the previous four years,” Brown states. Key strategies included identifying workable safety devices, workflow analysis and modification, education and training.

Mary Hotaling

Mary Hotaling, MS, MT(ASCP)DLM has more than 25 years experience in clinical laboratory administration and education and is currently the quality systems manager and laboratory safety officer at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islep, N.Y. She is responsible for laboratory quality, safety, and regulatory oversight for three hospitals and regional core facility. Ms. Hotaling is an invited speaker and consultant helping healthcare organizations meet the ever-changing regulatory, quality and safety challenges. She is the author of several book chapters as well as articles on regulatory compliance and sharps safety; the latest published in 2009 in the Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety.

Joseph M. Howard

As an employee health and wellness nurse at Marion General Hospital in Marion, Ohio for the past five years, Joseph M. Howard, RN, COHN oversees the health and wellness of 1,100 healthcare workers. He has been working in occupational health since 1991 at three different hospitals and also as an industrial nurse at a steel plant. In his current position he oversees vaccination programs, ensures OSAH and JCAAHO compliance on health records, conducts post-exposure follow up and minor injury treatment, and formulates wellness programs. One of Mr. Howard’s primary functions in occupational health is the prevention of injury. In his mission to prevent needlestick injuries, he notes that treatment of exposures indicates that the system doesn’t always achieve that goal. “I know that every time I have to wait for hepatitis B and C, and HIV, results there’s a chance I’ll have to deliver bad news.”

Margaret Lampark

Margaret Lampark, BSN, RN, COHN-S leads the associate health and wellness program at Weaton Franciscan Healthcare-All Saints in Racine, Wis. She has worked diligently as an ongoing advocate of associate safety in decreasing needlesticks and reducing exposure to bloodborne pathogens. As noted by her nominator, Sr. Jay Nelson, “Her leadership has made our program the best I have worked with in my 20-plus years in infection control.”

Honorable Mentions

Nominations for this year’s awards have once again been truly outstanding. We would like to recognize the following individuals for the contributions they have made. It is through their efforts that the healthcare work environment continues to improve in the many areas impacting safe sharps practices. Please join us in congratulating the 2009 Sharps Injury Prevention honorees.

Robin George

Robin H. George, RN, CIC recently became a member of the Employee Health Department at Memorial Healthcare System in Chattanooga, Tenn. For 10-plus years prior to this, she was an infection control preventionist in an active, progressive IC program. During this time sharps injuries and bloodborne pathogen compliance became a special project for Ms. George. Over the last five to six years, her organization’s greatest accomplishment regarding sharps injuries has occurred in the surgical services department.

Ann Higgins

Ann Higgins, MSc, RGN/RSCN has fought for five years to introduce a needle-free system to her hospital. Currently serving as assistant director of nursing, infection prevention and control, at Mater Private Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, she has been working in infection prevention and control since 1998 with a

strong commitment to the safe practices for both patients and staff. Ms. Higgins considers monitoring staff blood exposure incidents and actions to reduce the risk of such incidents an important part of her role.

Julia Naunheim Hipps

Julia Naunheim Hipps, RN, BSN is a clinical educator for Retractable Technologies Inc., providing sharps safety training to hospitals, health departments, nursing homes, prisons and other medical facilities across the United States and Canada on the proper use of the VanishPoint® syringes, blood collection devices, IV catheters, and Patient Safe™ syringes. Her passion is to help healthcare workers understand the importance of preventing unnecessary needlestick injuries in the workplace (and the burden of the consequent costs to our healthcare system).

Lisa Starr

Lisa Starr is responsible for product design, production and sales for Starr Systems LLC. The Kansas-based company recently introduced its innovative Disposable Ampoule Breaker (DAB) to the medical industry. The DAB is designed as a safety tool to protect healthcare workers from lacerations and injury while opening glass ampoules. The DAB is available in three sizes and will be available in single use and tray configurations. The Starr DAB has been selected as a preferred safety product by a major hospital group and is available nationally through Owens & Minor.

Contact Ron Stoker at info@isips.org for more information on reducing needlestick injuries and preventing bloodborne pathogen exposure in your facility.

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The International Sharps Injury Prevention Society, ISIPS, was formed to reduce the number of accidental needlestick and other sharps injuries that occur globally by promoting the use of safety-engineered products and services.

ISIPS is an international group of medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers, health organizations, healthcare professionals, medical waste disposal experts. We have joined forces to provide education, information, and product knowledge that help reduce the number of sharps injuries.

Category	Medical, Health
Tags	needlestick injury, sharps injury prevention, international sharps injury prevention society
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